THE PRINCIPAL

ACTS

OF THE

General Assembly

OF THE

CHURCH

OF

SCOTLAND,

Conveened at EDINBURGH, the 23d Day of *May* 1776.

Collected and extracted from the Records by the Clerk thereof.

EDINBURGH:

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THE PRINCIPAL

ACTS

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General Assembly

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CHURCH

OF

SCOTLAND,

Begun at *Edinburgh* the 23d Day of *May* 1776, and concluded the 3d of *June*.

I.

The King's Commission to Charles Lord Cathcart, produced and ordered to be recorded.

Edinburgh, May 3. 1776.

THE General Assembly of this National Church being convened and constituted, there was produced to them, by DAVID DALRYMPLE, Esq; Advocate, Procurator for the Church, the King's Commission, sealed with the Seal appointed by the Treaty of Union to be kept and used in *Scotland*, in place of

of the Great Seal of *Scotland*, making and conſtituting the Right Honourable CHARLES Lord CATHCART his Majeſty's High Commiſſioner and Repreſentative in this Aſſembly; which Commiſſion was publicly read with all due honour and reſpect, and ordered to be recorded in the books of Aſſembly. The tenor whereof follows:

GEORGIUS, *Dei gratia, Magnæ Britanniæ, Franciæ, et Hiberniæ Rex, Fidei Defenſor: Omnibus probis hominibus, ad quos præſentes literæ noſtræ pervenerint, ſalutem. Quandoquidem nos conſiderantes, quod generalis eccleſiæ Scotiæ conventus in vigeſimum tertium diem Maii inſtantis convenire ordinatus fuit; noſque etiam abunde cupidi, quinetiam neceſſarium eſſe judicantes in commodum dictæ eccleſiæ, ut idem generalis eccleſiæ conventus, die ſtatuto debite obſervetur, atque rebus magni momenti nos alio vocantibus, dicto conventui perſonaliter intereſſe nequimus; noſque abunde ſatisfacti de fidelitate et ſufficientia fideliſſimi et dilectiſſimi noſtri conſiliarii* Caroli Domini Cathcart, *quod ad ſummum munus poſtea mentionatum rite exercendum et obeundum uude quaque ſit qualificatus: Noveritis igitur, nos nominaſſe, conſtituiſſe, et ordinaſſe, ſicuti nos, tenore præſentium, nominamus, conſtituimus, et ordinamus, memoratum* Carolum Dominum Cathcart, *ſupremum noſtrum Commiſſionarium ad effectum poſtea mentionatum quando et concedendo illi pleniſſimam noſtram poteſtatem, commiſſionem, et warrantem, ſacram noſtram perſonam et authoritatem regalem repreſentandi, necnon preſentiam noſtram ſupplendi, et locum noſtrum in dicto ſubſequenti generali conventu, tanquam Commiſſionario noſtro ad hunc effectum ſpecialiter conſtituto, tenendi, omniaque alia ad imperium et locum Commiſſionarii pro generali eccleſiæ conventu peragendi, tam plene, adeoque libere, in omnibus reſpectibus, quam quilibet alius ejuſdem ſummi muneris fecerat, ſeu quovis tempore præterito facere potuerat, vel ſi noſmetipſi perſonaliter præſentes facere potuerimus. Quæque omnia et ſingula ab antedicto* Carolo Domino Cathcart, *in hac noſtra commiſſione proſequenda legitime fecerit, ſeu fieri ordinaverit, nos firmiter approbamus, et habituri ſumus. Omnibus et ſingulis inſuper antedictæ eccleſiæ et conventus paſtoribus, et preſbyteriis, cæteriſque quibuſcunque infra illam partem Magnæ Britanniæ Scotiam vocatam, ſubditis noſtris, quibuſcunque cujuſcunque gradus ſeu qualitatis, ut dictum* Carolum Dominum Cathcart, *tanquam ſupremum noſtrum Commiſſionarium, quoad effectum et modum ſupra mentionatum revereantur,*

revereantur, agnoscant, et dict. ipsius audientes se præbeant, stricte mandamus et imperamus: Atque hanc nostram commissionem, a dicto vigesimo tertio die Maii instantis incipere, et deinceps hac subsequend. sessione dicti generalis conventus, in vigore continuare declaramus, vel usque dum a nobis revocabitur, et exonerabitur. In cujus rei testimonium, sigillum nostrum per Unionis tractatum custodiend. et in Scotia, vice et loco Magni Sigilli ejusdem, utend. ordinat. præsentibus appendi mandavimus; apud aulam nostram apud St James's, decimo die mensis Maii, anno Domini millesimo septingentesimo septuagesimo sexto, regnique nostri anno decimo sexto. Per signaturam manu S. D. N. regis suprascript.

II.

The KING's most gracious Letter to the General Assembly, presented to them by the said David Dalrymple Esq;

GEORGE R.

RIGHT Reverend and well-beloved, We greet you well. The loyalty and affection to our person and government, which you have so steadily manifested, and the zeal which you have constantly shewn in your endeavours to promote the cause of true religion, virtue and morality have ever most deservedly met with our approbation. It is with great pleasure that we assure you of our most gracious dispositions towards you, and of our resolution to support the Church of Scotland, as by law established in all its rights and privileges.

From the prudence and moderation of your deliberations, we have no doubt of your determination to continue your exertions with a truely christian zeal, that conformably to the intent of your meeting, you will proceed in the discouragement of vice and licentiousness; and that, actuated by no other motive than the desire of promoting piety and virtue, you will avoid all contentions and unedifying debates; that your councils will

ſolely tend to the ſuppreſſion of every ſpecies of immorality, and the increaſe of the true happineſs of our ſubjects, by enforcing a conſcientious obſervance of the religion and laws of theſe kingdoms, on which the felicity of every individual ſo eſſentially depends.

We have again appointed our Right Truſty and Well-beloved Counſellor, Charles Lord Cathcart, to repreſent our Royal perſon in this Aſſembly: We have had ſuch repeated proofs of his zeal and fidelity, and you have ſo often experienced his affection for you, that we cannot doubt of the ſatisfaction you will receive from the choice we have made; and you may be aſſured that the Church of Scotland, as by law eſtabliſhed, will always meet with our ſupport.

There is nothing more remaining but to acquaint you with our hopes, that the charity, brotherly love, and unanimity of your proceeding in the buſineſs before you, will bring this your meeting to a happy concluſion: And ſo we bid you heartily farewel.

Given at our Court of St James's, the 10th day of May 1776, in the ſixteenth year of our reign.

By his Majeſty's Command,

(Signed) SUFFOLK.

III. The

III.

The General Assembly's Answer to the King's most gracious Letter.

May it please your Majesty,

YOUR Majesty's most gracious Letter was received by us, with all the respect and gratitude due to so great a mark of your Royal favour.

The approbation which your Majesty is pleased to express of the loyalty and affection of this Church to your person and government, and of our zeal to promote the cause of true religion, virtue, and morality, cannot fail to fill our minds with the greatest pleasure, and next to the approbation of God, and of our own Consciences, that of our Sovereign must hold the highest place in our esteem. The assurance which your Majesty is pleased to give us of your most gracious dispositions towards us, and of your resolution to support the Church of Scotland, as by law established, in all its rights and privileges, cannot but afford us the highest satisfaction; and we rely upon it with the firmest security.

The expression of your Majesty's confidence in the prudence and moderation of our deliberations, and of our continuing our exertions to discourage vice and licentiousness, and to promote piety and virtue, fill us with the greatest pleasure; and it shall be our sincere study, to merit the continuance of your Majesty's approbation, by avoiding all contentions and unedifying debates, and directing our councils solely to the suppression of every species of immorality, by enforcing a conscientious observance of the religion and laws of these kingdoms, on which we are sensible the felicity of every individual so essentially depends.

We beg leave to return our humble and grateful acknowledgements to your Majesty, on account of your Royal Donation for the propagation of Christian Knowledge in the Highlands and Islands of Scotland. It shall be our

our endeavour to apply the ſum appropriated by your bounty for that purpoſe, in ſuch a manner as may beſt anſwer the pious and uſeful deſign for which it is beſtowed.

The choice which your Majeſty has been pleaſed again to make of Lord Cathcart, for repreſenting your Royal perſon in this Aſſembly, we cannot but conſider as an additional mark of your favour. The repeated proofs we have had of his zeal and fidelity, in the diſcharge of thoſe high truſts which have been committed to him, and the experience which we have ſo often had of his zeal for religion, and his high affection and regard to this Church, render the choice which your Majeſty has at this time made, extremely acceptable to us all.

That Almighty God, the Father of our Lord Jeſus Chriſt, may protect your perſon, direct your councils, and proſper your adminiſtration; That he may bleſs your Royal Conſort the Queen, the Prince of Wales, and all your Royal family; and that, after having long beheld the increaſing felicity of your people, you may late aſcend thoſe happy regions, where pious and virtuous princes ſhall ſhine as the brightneſs of the firmament, and as the ſtars for ever and ever; and be diſtinguiſhed with an everlaſting crown, are the earneſt prayers of,

May it pleaſe your Majeſty,

Your Majeſty's moſt faithful,
Moſt obedient,
And moſt loyal Subjects,
The Miniſters and Elders met in this National Aſſembly of the Church of Scotland.

Signed in our name,
In our preſence,
And at our appointment, by

JOHN KER, *Moderator.*

EDINBURGH, May 25. 1776.

IV. The

IV.

The General Assembly's Address to his Majesty on the present situation of affairs.

May it please your Majesty,

WE your Majesty's most dutiful subjects, the Ministers and Elders met in the General Assembly of the Church of Scotland, animated with the same sentiments of loyalty which prevail among the people under our care, embrace this first opportunity of joining with them in declaring, that, at this interesting juncture, our attachment to your Majesty's person and government, and our zeal for the constitution and rights of Great Britain continue firm and unshaken.

Under a constitution founded on the principles of liberty, and governed by a Sovereign whose reign has been uniformly distinguished by a sacred regard for the rights of his people, we have enjoyed a felicity which our forefathers struggled and prayed for, but did not obtain; and we daily bless that God, by whom Kings reign, for your mild and equitable administration. Sensible of our own happiness, and reposing with confidence on your Majesty's attention to the welfare of all your people, it is with no less astonishment than regret, that we have beheld those alarming events which disturb the tranquillity of your reign.

But while we deeply bewail the progress of that spirit which hath prompted our fellow-subjects in North-America, to take arms, in opposition to your Majesty's authority, and the supremacy of the British Legislature, we contemplate with peculiar satisfaction, that striking proof which your Majesty now gives, of your paternal affection, by vesting in the same respectable persons whom you have intrusted with the command of your formidable fleets and armies, the power of displaying the extent of your Majesty's clemency, and of conciliating the alienated minds of your subjects.

We conſider ourſelves as called upon in the preſent ſituation of public affairs to exert our utmoſt diligence, in diſcharging the important functions of our ſacred office, in order to confirm the people committed to our charge, in their reverence for the laws of their country, in their attachment to the ſyſtem of legal government eſtabliſhed by the glorious Revolution, and in their loyalty towards your Majeſty, whom they have experienced to be the faithful guardian of thoſe liberties which your illuſtrious Houſe was called to maintain.

Theſe endeavours ſhall ever be accompanied with our fervent prayers to Almighty God, that he may go forth with the fleets and armies of our country; that he may bleſs the humane means employed by your Majeſty, to recal our fellow-ſubjects to a ſenſe of their duty, and to put a ſpeedy period, without effuſion of blood, to the preſent dangerous and unnatural rebellion; that he, who ſtilleth the tumults of the people, and ruleth the ſpirit of man, may, in his good time, turn the hearts of the children unto their fathers; that out of confuſion order may ariſe; that in place of anarchy and civil diſcord, ſubmiſſion to legal authority may return; and the union between Great Britain and her Colonies may be happily re-eſtabliſhed; ſo that both may long rejoice under the government of your Majeſty as their common parent and benefactor.

May it pleaſe your Majeſty,

Your Majeſty's moſt faithful,
Moſt obedient,
And moſt loyal Subjects,

The Miniſters and Elders met in this National Aſſembly of the Church of Scotland.

Signed in our name,
In our preſence,
And at our appointment, by
JOHN KER, *Moderator.*

EDINBURGH, May 28. 1776.

The

V.

The General Assembly's congratulatory Address to his Majesty on the birth of another Princess.

May it please your Majesty,

WE your Majesty's most dutiful subjects, the Ministers and Elders of the Church of Scotland, embrace with pleasure the opportunity which our meeting in a General Assembly affords us of approaching your Throne with respectful congratulations on the birth of another Princess.

Animated with the principles of loyalty and inviolable regard to your Royal person and family, we cannot fail to rejoice in an event which adds to your domestic felicity.

Possessed, as we are, with reverence and gratitude towards the illustrious house of Hanover, to which, under God, the nation is indebted for the full enjoyment of the Protestant religion, and of public liberty, we must consider the increase of your Royal family as an happy pledge of the security of our civil and religious rights, which our ancestors were solicitous to establish, by calling your august family to the throne of these kingdoms.——On that throne may it flourish to the latest posterity!

With our fervent prayers for the blessing of the most High to rest on your Majesty, on your illustrious consort the Queen, and on all your Royal progeny, we are,

May it please your Majesty,

Your Majesty's most faithful,
Most obedient,
And most loyal Subjects,
The Ministers and Elders met in this National Assembly of the Church of Scotland.

Signed in our name,
In our presence,
And at our appointment, by
JOHN KER, *Moderator*.

EDINBURGH, May 29. 1776.

VI.

Commiſſion to ſome Miniſters and Ruling Elders for Reformation of the Highlands and Iſlands, and for managing his Majeſty's Royal Bounty for that End.

THE General Aſſembly did, and hereby do nominate and appoint, the Rev. Dr John Ker Miniſter at Forfar, their Moderator, all the Miniſters members of the preſbytery of Edinburgh, all the Miniſters from the Highlands who are members of this Aſſembly, Dr Duncan Shaw at Rafford, Mr Donald M'Queen at Kilmuir, Mr George M'Culloch at Loath, Mr John Thomſon at Durneſs, Mr John Cameron at Hall-Kirk, Mr Robert Gun at Latheron, Mr John Scollay at St Andrews and Deerneſs, Mr James Aliſon at Holm, Mr James Tyrie at Stromneſs, Mr James Buchan at Walls, Mr Patrick Bennet at Polmont, Mr John Johnſton at Biggar, Mr Thomas Gibſon at Kirkurd, Mr John Goldie at Temple, Mr Thomas Hepburn at Athelſtanefoord, Mr John Cluney at Whitekirk, Mr Adam Murray at Eccles, Dr Walter Anderſon at Chirnſide, Mr Robert Hog at Roxburgh, Mr William Scot at Abbotrule, Mr Robert Potts at Ettrick, Mr Andrew Jaffrey at Ruthwell, Mr John Scotland at Weſterkirk, Mr John Nimmo at Johnſton, Mr Thomas Mutter at Dumfries, Mr Charles Niſbet at Montroſe, Dr John Walker at Moffat, Dr James Blinſhall at Dundee, Mr Adam Ferguſon at Mouline, Mr Robert Turnbull at Sprouſtoun, Dr Alexander Duncan at Smealholm, Mr James Thomſon at Dunfermline, Dr David Shaw at Coyltoun, Mr Colin Campbell at Renfrew, Mr David Connell at Kilbride, Mr John Hamilton at Glaſgow, Mr John Corſe at Glaſgow, Mr William M'Cubbon at Douglas, Profeſſor Baillie at Glaſgow, Mr Andrew Gray at Abernethy, Dr Hary Spence at Wemyſs, Mr Thomas Gray at Broughton, Mr Robert Wingate at Abdie, Mr Patrick Glaſs at Crail, Mr David Ferguſon at Farnell, Mr John Hutchen at Fetteresſo, Mr George Abercromby at Aberdeen,

berdeen, Mr William Forsyth at Aboyne, Mr Francis Leslie at Tullenesle, Mr Thomas Mitchell at Tarvis, Mr Alexander Stewart at Leslie, Mr William Taylor at New-Deer, Mr Walter Morison at Deskfoord, Mr John Couper at Glass, Mr John Grant at Dundurcass, Mr Patrick Grant at Cromdale, Mr William Gordon at Urquhart, Mr Thomas Gordon at Auldearn, Mr Thomas Simpson at Avoch, Mr Patrick Grant at Nigg, and Mr James Grant at Laggan, Ministers; the Lord Provost of Edinburgh, Mr George Home baker in Edinburgh, Mr James Cunninghame baker in Edinburgh, Mr Andrew Hamilton of Spittlehaugh, Mr William Robertson advocate, Professor Dougald Stewart, Edinburgh, Professor Ferguson, Mr Alexander Abercromby writer to the signet, Professor Williamson, Mr James Loch writer to the signet, Mr Allan M'Dougall writer to the signet, Duncan M'Millan of Dunmore, Esq; Mr Niell Ferguson advocate, Mr Alexander Ferguson advocate, Mr William M'Donald writer to the signet, Bailie John Grieve, Edinburgh, Convener Orlando Hart, Edinburgh, Bailie Charles Innes, Edinburgh, Bailie John Lothian, Edinburgh, Mr John Mosman merchant in Edinburgh, Mr William Galloway merchant in Edinburgh, Bailie James Gentle brewer in Canongate, Mr Daniel Miller merchant in Canongate, Mr Allan M'Connochie advocate, Mr George Currie advocate, Mr Isaac Grant writer to the signet, Mr Colquhoun Grant writer to the signet, Dr Gregory Grant physician in Edinburgh, Mr John Taylor writer to the signet, Mr Alexander Miller advocate, William Campbell of Fairfield, Esq; Mr Andrew Crosbie advocate, Mr Robert Cullen advocate, Mr John Dickson advocate, Sir James Colquhoun of Luss, Bart. Mr Lamont of Lamont, Mr M'Naught of Barncaillie, Mr Brown of Barharrow, Mr Archibald M'Donald advocate, Mr Solicitor Murray, the Lord Advocate, the Lord Chief Baron, Mr Alexander Belsches advocate, Lord Alva, Solicitor Balmain, Mr William Chalmers writer, Edinburgh, Mr Hart of Baltully, Mr Walter Cossar Comptroller of Excise, Mr John Scott advocate, Captain Robert Mudie shipmaster in Leith, Mr Joseph Gavin merchant in Edinburgh, the Procurator, Mr John Robertson writer in Edinburgh, Mr John Touch of the Chapel of Ease, Mr Cosmo Gordon advocate, Lord Ankervile, Mr Walter Gibson surgeon in Leith, Mr

Buchan of Kello, Mr Græme of Græmſhall, Bailie John Walker merchant in Edinburgh, Sir Alexander Dick of Preſtonfield, Bart. Mr Stevenſon of Smithfield, the Lord Preſident, Mr Charles Brown advocate, Bailie Hugh Dalrymple, North Berwick, Mr George Buchan-Hepburn advocate, Mr Matthew Sandilands writer in Edinburgh, Colonel James Pringle of Stitchell, Mr Adam Ogilvy advocate, Sir William Maxwell of Springkell, Mr William Scotland writer in Edinburgh, Mr Hay of Crawfordton, and Mr Alexander Wight advocate, Ruling Elders; to be a committee of this Aſſembly, for Reformation of the Highlands and Iſlands of Scotland, for promoting the knowledge of true Religion, ſuppreſſing Popery and profaneneſs, and for managing the Royal Bounty, for theſe ends, according to, and in terms of his Majeſty's grant to this Aſſembly. In proſecution of which purpoſes, the committee are to appoint preachers and catechiſts to go to ſuch places as they ſhall find, upon due information, to be moſt proper, according to his Majeſty's deſign expreſſed in his warrant; and, in ſo doing, that they have particular regard to ſuch pariſhes in South Uiſt, Small-Iſles, Glenco, Harris, the countries of Moidart, Glengary, and Lochaber, and the other pariſhes of the ſynods of Glenelg and Argyle, which the committee ſhall find, by reaſon of their vaſt extent, by the prevalency of Popery and ignorance, and other unhappy circumſtances, to be in the greateſt diſtreſs: And they ſhall take care, that the perſons they employ be certified, and found, upon due trial, to be properly qualified for theſe reſpective offices, of good abilities for the ſame, of a pious life and converſation, prudent, of undoubted loyalty to his Majeſty, and of competent ſkill in the principles of divinity, and particularly in Popiſh controverſies: Such preachers and catechiſts being hereby appointed to be ſubject to, and under the inſpection of the preſbyteries of the bounds to which they are ſent, who are to take care that the orders of the committee be duly obſerved by them. And the preachers are alſo appointed to catechiſe, and both they and the catechiſts to inſtruct the people from houſe to houſe, and to viſit the ſick, and, in all their labours among the people, to be careful to teach them the principles and duties of the true Chriſtian Proteſtant Religion, and the obligations they are under to duty and loyalty to

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our Sovereign King George, and obedience to the laws: And the committee are impowered to give them such instructions, as to their work and behaviour, as they shall judge meet; which instructions the preachers and catechists are hereby ordered to obey. The General Assembly do further appoint the said committee, to have a particular regard in their proceedings to the regulations agreed upon by the committee of the Assembly for managing the Royal Bounty, on the 30th of September 1730, approven by frequent Assemblies; and to take care that presbyteries, and others concerned, observe the same, which they are hereby ordered to do: Particularly, the Assembly ordains the several presbyteries to insert in their registers, the committee's appointments of the designations, salaries, and stations of the several missionaries, and to have an exact regard thereto, in all the letters they shall write about the said missionaries, and in giving of certificates to them; and to direct all their letters concerning missionaries in their bounds, only to the Moderator of the Committee; which letters shall be signed, at the appointment of the presbytery, by the Moderator or clerk thereof: And the Assembly does discharge any payment to be made of the salaries of the missionaries, except upon receipts from the missionaries themselves, and upon certificates from the presbyteries, bearing, that they have served for the time mentioned in the receipts. The General Assembly do also impower the said committee, to apply, for the purposes above mentioned, what may remain of the last year's Royal Bounty not disposed of, by reason of any of the missionaries not fulfilling the appointments laid upon them; and they are to keep a register of their proceedings, and likewise distinct books of accompts, how the foresaid money is bestowed, which shall be patent to any concerned who please to inspect the same. Of the persons above named as members of this committee, five are declared to be a quorum, whereof three are to be ministers. But it is hereby appointed, That at the quarterly meeting of the committee, in which the scheme or establishment of missionaries for the ensuing year is to be approved and determined, not less than fourteen shall be the quorum, whereof nine shall be ministers; and the said committee are appointed to have their general meetings at Edinburgh, the first lawful day after the adjournment

ment of the four ſtated diets of the Commiſſion of the General Aſſembly, within the Aſſembly Iſle, at ten of the clock in the forenoon, except that day ſhall fall to be Saturday, and then the meeting ſhall be upon Monday next thereafter, at the ſaid hour; with power to the ſaid committee, to adjourn themſelves to ſuch times and places as they ſhall find moſt needful and convenient: And they are to keep a correſpondence with the Commiſſion of the General Aſſembly, and the Society for propagating Chriſtian Knowledge, and their committee of directors, and to take their advice and aſſiſtance; and alſo to correſpond with the ſynods and preſbyteries concerned. They are likewiſe inſtructed and impowered, as they ſhall ſee cauſe, to apply to the Government, or any magiſtrate, for aſſiſtance and ſupport in carrying on the deſign of the commiſſion now given to them. And the General Aſſembly do, by theſe preſents, nominate and appoint Mr David Dalrymple advocate, Procurator for the Church, to be Receiver of the foreſaid Royal Bounty, and to pay out the ſame as he ſhall be directed and ordered by the ſaid committee, and according to their rules. And the ſaid committee are appointed to examine the accompts of the diſtribution of the Royal Bounty, and lay the ſame before the Lords Commiſſioners of his Majeſty's Treaſury, or the Barons of his Majeſty's Court of Exchequer, and to report their diligence to the General Aſſembly, to whom they are to be accountable. And it is agreed, That no perſon once employed and inſert in the ſcheme ſhall be ſtruck out thereof for that year, but by the quorum of at leaſt fourteen, whereof nine to be miniſters; and in caſe any complaint ſhall be made againſt any of them on the ſcheme, it ſhall not be determined the firſt ordinary meeting that the ſame is offered, but it ſhall lye on the table till another meeting; and in the mean time, the perſon complained of, and the preſbytery of the bounds wherein he officiates, ſhall be acquainted of ſuch complaint, and theſe concerned be required to ſend to the ſaid committee a juſt account of the matter, againſt the next meeting. And it is further appointed, That after the yearly ſcheme of miſſionaries on the Royal Bounty is ſettled in manner above directed, and notice thereof given by letters to the preſbyteries concerned, ſuch preſbyteries ſhall ſend up to the ſaid committee their

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answer to these letters, at fartheſt with their commiſſioners to the General Aſſembly, if the ſame be not done ſooner; and that the committee, at their firſt meeting after the General Aſſembly, ſhall endeavour to compleat the next year's ſcheme themſelves; and if they cannot compleat it, they ſhall name a ſub-committee of their number for that purpoſe, who are to lay their draught thereof before a ſubſequent meeting, which are appointed to meet as ſoon after the riſing of the Aſſembly as poſſible. And impowered the committee, at their firſt meeting, to reject any petition for a new ſtation, in caſe they ſhall find ſufficient objections againſt it; and that the ſaid committee, in making up the ſcheme of miſſionaries, *&c.* do not exceed the ſum in the grant.

VII.

Commiſſion to ſome Miniſters and Ruling Elders, for diſcuſſing Affairs referred to them.

THE General Aſſembly, conſidering that there are diverſe affairs which they cannot overtake, do hereby *nominate*, *commiſſionate*, and *appoint* the Reverend Dr John Ker, miniſter of the goſpel at Forfar, their Moderator, and from the Preſbytery of Kirkcudbright, Mr Robert Coupar at Grithen, Mr Nathaniel M'Kie at Corſmichael, Mr Samuel Martin at Balmaghie, miniſters, and Mr Andrew Heron of Ingleſtown, ruling elder; From the burgh of Kirkcudbright, John M'Knaught of Barncaillie, Eſq; From the Preſbytery of Wigton, Mr Samuel Brown at Kirkmabreck, Mr James Laing at Glaſſertown, miniſters, and Mr Alexander Miller advocate, ruling elder; from the burgh of Whithorn, Patrick Brown of Barharrow, Eſq; From the Preſbytery of Stranrawer, Mr James Twaddel at Old Luce, Mr John M'Kenzie at Port Patrick, miniſters; From the Preſbytery of Ayr, Dr David Shaw at Coyltown, Mr

William M'Gill at Ayr, Mr Duncan M'Myne at Dalmelington, Mr Andrew Shaw at Craigie, Mr John Shepherd at Muirkirk, miniſters, John Hamilton of Bargenie, Eſq; William Campbell younger of Fairfield, Eſq; ruling elders; From the burgh of Ayr, Profeſſor Dougald Stewart; From the Preſbytery of Irvin, Mr Malcolm Brown at Kilbirnie, Mr Arthur Oughterſon, at Kilbride, Mr James Richmond at Irvine, miniſters, the Hon. Patrick Boyle of Shewalton, ruling elder; From the burgh of Irvine, Mr John Buſhby of Auchingabert; From the Preſbytery of Paiſley, Mr Colin Campbell at Renfrew, Mr James Moriſon at Paiſley, Mr John Forreſt at Port-Glaſgow, miniſters, Andrew Croſbie, Eſq; advocate, ruling elder; From the Preſbytery of Hamilton, Mr David Connel at Kilbride, Mr Patrick Maxwell at New Monkland, Mr Alexander Dobie at Glaſsford, miniſters, Mr Robert Cullen advocate, ruling elder; From the Preſbytery of Lanark, Mr William M'Cubban at Douglas, Mr Robert Buchanan at Leſmahagow, miniſters, James White of Neuk, Eſq; ruling elder; From the burgh of Lanark, Mr Richard Tod, merchant in Leith; From the Preſbytery of Glaſgow, Mr John Hamilton at Glaſgow, Mr John Corſe at Glaſgow, Mr William Anderſon at Gorbals, Mr William Thom at Govan, miniſters, Profeſſor John Anderſon, and Mr William Watſon ruling elders; from the Univerſity of Glaſgow, Profeſſor James Baillie; From the Preſbytery of Dumbarton, Mr George Drummond at Roſeneath, Mr Gordon Stewart at Bonhill, Mr James Graham at Killearn, miniſters, Sir James Colquhoun of Luſs Bart. ruling elder; From the Preſbytery of Denoon, Mr Alexander Lamont at Kilfinan, Mr Archibald M'Lea at Rothſay, miniſters, John Lamont of Lamont, Eſq; ruling elder; from the burgh of Rothſay, Duncan M'Millan of Dunmore, Eſq; From the Preſbytery of Kintyre, Mr Robert Thomſon at Killean, Mr John Hamilton at Kilmoree, Mr George M'Leiſh at Saddel, miniſters, Mr Archibald M'Donald advocate, ruling elder; From the burgh of Campbelton, Alexander Murray of Murray-field, Eſq; Solicitor-General for Scotland; From the Preſbytery of Inverary, Mr Peter Campbell at Kilmichael, Mr Daniel Hyndman at South Knapdale miniſters, Mr James Loch writer to the ſignet, ruling elder; From the burgh of Inverary, Dr James Williamſon;

Williamſon; From the Preſbytery of Lorn, Mr Donald M'Nicol at Leſmore, Mr William Campbell at Kilchrenan, miniſters, Robert Campbell Eſq; of Finab, ruling elder; From the Preſbytery of Mull, Mr Niel M'Leod at Kilfinihen, Mr Patrick M'Arthur at Ardnamurchan, miniſters, Allan M'Dougal of Gallaniſh, Eſq; ruling elder; From the Preſbytery of Dunkeld, Mr Adam Fergusſon at Mouline, Mr Robert Williamſon at Lethindy, Mr James Smith at Rattray, Mr John Scott at Kinclevan, miniſters, Profeſſor Adam Fergusſon, Mr Niel Fergusſon advocate, ruling elders; From the Preſbytery of Perth, Dr Andrew Gray at Abernethy, Mr David Beatſon at Dumbarney, Mr Archibald Stevenſon at St Madoes, Mr George Chapman at Kinfauns, miniſters, Mr Alexander Belches advocate, Bailie John Caw, Ruling elders; From the Preſbytery of Stirling, Mr Robert Finlay at Dollar, Mr William Martin at Gargunnoch, miniſters, Lord Alva, ruling elder; From the Preſbytery of Auchterarder, Mr Archibald Rennie at Muchart, Mr David Kemp at Gaſk, Mr Robert Mathie at Glendovan, miniſters, Bailie James Gentle, Canongate, ruling elder; From the Preſbytery of Dumblane, Mr James Smith at Kilmadock, Mr Robert Balfour at Lecrop, miniſters, John Graham younger of Meiklewood, Eſq; ruling elder; From the Preſbytery of Dunfermline, Mr James Thomſon at Dunfermline, Mr Alexander Daling at Cliesh, Mr Thomas Fernie at Dunfermline, miniſters, Dr John Steedman, Phyſician in Edinburgh, ruling elder; From the burgh of Dunfermline, Mr Allan M'Connochie of Meadowbank, advocate; From the burgh of Inverkeithing, Baillie Andrew Turnbull; From the Preſbytery of Kirkcaldy, Dr Hary Spenſe at Wemyſs, Dr Patrick Muirhead at Dyſart, Mr David Swan at Scoonie, miniſters, James Townſend-Oſwald, Eſq; of Dunnekier, ruling elder; From the burgh of Kirkcaldy, Mr James Fergus, merchant in Kirkcaldy; from the burgh of Kinghorn, James Balmain, Eſq; Solicitor of Exciſe; From the Preſbytery of Cupar, Mr Robert Wingate at Abdie, Mr George Lyon at Strathmeiglo, Mr Charles Wilſon at Aughtermuchty, Mr William Duncan at Newburgh, miniſters, the Hon. Captain Maitland, John Melvell of Cairnie, Eſq; ruling elders; From the Preſbytery of St Andrews, Mr Patrick Glaſs at Crail, Mr John Mair at Cameron,

Cameron, Mr John Richardſon at Newburn, Mr James Nairn at Pittenweem, miniſters, Profeſſor George Hill, Mr James Chalmers, merchant in Anſtruther-Eaſter, ruling elders; From the burgh of St Andrews, Mr William Chalmers Writer in Edinburgh; From the burgh of Pittenweem, James Durham of Largo, Eſq; From the burgh of Anſtruther-Eaſter, Alexander Hart of Baltully, Eſq; clerk to the High Court of Juſticiary; From the burgh of Kilrenny, Mr Walter Coſſar, Comptroller of Exciſe, Edinburgh; From the Preſbytery of Meigle, Mr Thomas Maſon at Glenila, Mr William Dow at Blairgowrie, Mr James Edward at Lintrathen, miniſters, Patrick Aliſon of Newhall, Eſq; ruling elder; From the Preſbytery of Forfar, Dr John Dryſdale one of the miniſters of Edinburgh, Mr Griffith Ferguſon at Dunnichen, miniſters, William Adam, Eſq; younger of Maryburgh, ruling elder; From the burgh of Forfar, John Adam, Eſq; of Maryburgh; From the Preſbytery of Dundee, Mr George Lyon at Longforgan, Dr James Blenſhall at Dundee, Mr Alexander Strachan at Strathmartin, miniſters, Provoſt Patrick Maxwell, ruling elder; From the Preſbytery of Aberbrothock, Mr Robert Trail at Panbryde, Mr John Aitken at St Vigians, miniſters, the Hon. Baron Maule, ruling elder; From the Preſbytery of Brechin, Mr David Ferguſon at Farnell, Mr John Pirie at Lochlee, Mr Charles Niſbet at Montroſe, miniſters, Mr John Scott advocate, ruling elder; From the burgh of Montroſe, Captain Robert Mudie ſhipmaſter in Leith; From the Preſbytery of Fordown, Mr John Hutchen at Fetteresſo, Mr John Brymer at Marykirk, Mr James Walker at Dnnnoter miniſters, Mr George Home baker in Edinburgh, ruling elder; From the burgh of Bervie, Mr Joſeph Gavin, merchant in Edinburgh; From the Preſbytery of Aberdeen, Mr George Abercomby at Aberdeen, Profeſſor Alexander Gerard, Mr James Forſyth at Belhelvie, miniſters, Sir James Cockburn, Baronet, James Cunningham of Hyndhope, Eſq; ruling elders; From the city of Aberdeen, John Duncan of Moſtown, Eſq; late Provoſt of Aberdeen; From the Preſbytery of Kincardin O'niel, Mr William Forſyth at Aboyne, Mr John Ramſay at Strachan, Mr William Shand at Lumphanan, miniſters; From the Preſbytery of Alford, Mr Francis Leſly at Tullineſſel, Mr Robert Lumſden at Kildrummie, miniſters,

miniſters, Alexander Leith, Eſq; of Glenkinday, ruling elder; From the Preſbytery of Ellon, Mr Thomas Mitchel at Tarves, Mr John Roſe at Udney, Profeſſor Thomas Gordon, miniſters; From the Preſbytery of Garioch, Mr Alexander Stewart at Leſly, Mr John Likly at Old Meldrum, Mr Thomas Shepherd at Bourty, miniſters, Mr David Dalrymple advocate, procurator for the church, ruling elder; From the burgh of Inverary, John Clerk of Eldin, Eſq; From the Preſbytery of Deer, Mr William Taylor at New-deer, Mr James Johnſton at Crimond, Mr Andrew Youngſon at Aberdour, miniſters, Mr John Taylor Clerk to the Signet, ruling elder; From the Preſbytery of Fordyce, Mr Walter Moriſon at Deſkford, Mr Robert Ogilvy at Ordyquhill, miniſters, Mr John Robertſon, writer in Edinburgh, ruling elder; From the Preſbytery of Strathbogie, Mr John Cooper at Glaſs, Mr Alexander Angus at Bottriphnie, miniſters, Mr Coſmo Gordon advocate, ruling elder; From the Preſbytery of Aberlour, Mr John Grant at Dundurcas, Mr John Dunbar at Knockando, miniſters, Mr Iſaac Grant writer to the Signet, ruling elder; From the Preſbytery of Abernethy, Mr Patrick Grant at Cromdale, Mr Robert Farquharſon at Kirkmichael, miniſters, Dr Gregory Grant, ruling elder; From the Preſbytery of Elgin, Mr William Gordon at Urquhart, Mr Lewis Gordon at Drainie, miniſters, Mr John Touch, Edinburgh, ruling elder; From the Preſbytery of Forres, Dr Duncan Shaw at Rafford, Mr Alexander Coull at Edinkilly, miniſters, Mr James Frazer, merchant in Forres, ruling elder; From the Preſbytery of Nairn, Mr Thomas Gordon at Auldearn, Mr Walter Moriſon at Arderſier, miniſters, Baillie John Lothian, merchant in Edinburgh, ruling elder; From the Preſbytery of Chanonry, Mr Thomas Simpſon at Avock, Mr Robert Arthur at Kirkmichael and Cullicudden, miniſters, Mr William Galloway, merchant in Edinburgh, ruling elder; From the Preſbytery of Tain, Mr Patrick Grant at Nigg, Mr Joſeph Munro at Edirton, miniſters; The Right Hon. Lord Ankervile, ruling elder; From the burgh of Tain, Robert Chalmers, Eſq; of Larbert; From the Preſbytery of Dingwall, Dr Patrick Grant at Urray, Mr Angus Bethune at Alneſs, miniſters, Mr Walter Gibſon, ſurgeon

geon in Leith, ruling elder; From the Preſbytery of Abertarph, Mr Patrick Grant at Boleſkine, Mr James Grant at Laggan, miniſters, Mr Colquhoun Grant, writer to the ſignet, ruling elder; From the preſbytery of Sky, Mr Donald M'Queen, at Kilmuir, Mr Martin M'Pherſon at Slate, miniſters, Mr James Wilkie of Rathobyres, Eſq; ruling elder; From the preſbytery of Lewis, Mr Alexander M'Kay at Barvas, Mr John Downie at Stornoway, miniſters, Mr William Robertſon, advocate, ruling elder; From the preſbytery of Uiſt, Mr John Bethune at Harris, Mr Edmund M'Queen at Barra, miniſters, George Buchan of Kello, Eſq; advocate, ruling elder; From the preſbytery of Lochcarron, Mr Daniel M'Intoſh at Gerloch, Mr Donald Munro at Lochcarron, miniſters, Mr William M'Donald, writer to the ſignet, ruling elder; From the Preſbytery of Dornoch, Mr George M'Culloch at Loth, Mr John Sutherland at Dornoch, miniſters, Mr Alexander Abercromby, clerk to the ſignet, ruling elder; From the burgh of Dornoch, Andrew Hamilton, of Spittlehaugh, Eſq; From the Preſbytery of Tongue, Mr John Thomſon at Durneſs, Mr William M'Kenzie at Tongue, miniſters, Mr John Moſman, merchant in Edinburgh, ruling elder; From the Preſbytery of Caithneſs, Mr John Cameron at Halkirk, Mr Robert Gun at Latheron, miniſters; From the Burgh of Wick, Bailie Daniel Miller, merchant in Canongate; From the preſbytery of Kirkwall, Mr John Scollay at St Andrews and Deerneſs, Mr James Aliſon at Holm, miniſters, Patrick Grahame at Grahamſhall, Eſq; ruling elder; From the Preſbytery of Cairſton, Mr James Tyrie at Stromneſs, Mr Edward Irvine at Firth, miniſters, Bailie Charles Innes, merchant in Edinburgh, ruling elder; From the Preſbytery of Zetland, Mr James Buchan at Walls, Mr John Mill at Dunroſſneſs, miniſters, Bailie John Grieve, merchant in Edinburgh, ruling elder; From the Preſbytery of Edinburgh, Dr Daniel M'Queen, Mr Robert Walker, Mr Henry Lundie, Mr Alexander Bryce at Kirknewton, Mr Robert Fiſher at Colington, Mr James Craig at Currie, miniſters, Sir Alexander Dick, Baronet, Bailie John Walker, Gilbert Lawrie, Eſq; ruling elders; From the city of Edinburgh, the Right Hon. James Stoddart, Eſq; preſent Lord Provoſt,

Mr

Mr Orlando Hart, preſent Convener; From the Univerſity of Edinburgh, Principal Robertſon; From the church of Campvere, Mr James Yair, miniſter, Mr John Home, ruling elder; From the Preſbytery of Linlithgow, Mr Patrick Bennet at Polmont, Mr James Paton at Torphichen, Mr John Knox at Slamanan, Mr Thomas Robertſon at Dalmeny, miniſters, Mr Charles Addiſon, Mr David Sampſon, ruling elders; From the burgh of Linlithgow, Provoſt Robert Clark; From the burgh of Queensferry, Mr William Allan, merchant in Queensferry; From the Preſbytery of Biggar, Mr John Johnſton at Biggar, Mr Thomas Gray at Broughton, Mr Thomas Mitchel at Lamington, miniſters, John Dickſon, Eſq; advocate, ruling elder; From the Preſbytery of Peebles, Mr Thomas Gibſon at Kirkurd, Mr William Welſh at Manner, miniſters, the Lord Chief Baron, ruling elder; From the burgh of Peebles, Alexander Stevenſon of Smithfield, Eſq; Sheriff of Peebles; From the Preſbytery of Dalkeith, Mr John Goldie at Temple, Mr John Main at Newton, Mr James Taylor at Glencroſs, miniſters, the Lord Preſident, ruling elder; From the Preſbytery of Hadington, Mr John Hamilton, at Bolton, Mr Thomas Hepburn at Atholſtaneford, Dr George Barclay at Hadington, miniſters, Charles Brown younger of Coalſton, Eſq; advocate, ruling elder; From the burgh of Hadington, Francis Kinlock, Eſq; younger of Gilmerton; From the burgh of North Berwick, Bailie Hugh Dalrymple; From the Preſbytery of Dunbar Mr John Clunie at Whitekirk, Mr Alexander Davidſon at Stenton, miniſters, Dr Finlay of Drummore, ruling elder; From the burgh of Dunbar, George Buchan-Hepburn of Smeton, Eſq; From the Preſbytery of Dunſe Mr Adam Murray at Eccles, Mr Andrew Smith at Langton, miniſters, Mr Matthew Sandilands, writer in Edinburgh, ruling elder; From the Preſbytery of Chirnſide, Dr Walter Anderſon, at Chirnſide, Mr Philip Redpath, at Hutton, miniſters, Sir John Stewart of Allanbank, Baronet, ruling elder; From the Preſbytery of Kelſo, Mr Robert Hogg at Roxburgh, Mr Robert Turnbull at Sprouſton, miniſters, the Lord Advocate, ruling elder; From the Preſbytery of Jedburgh, Mr William Scott at

Abotrule

Abotrule, Mr James Rutherford at Howname, Mr Alexander Gordon at Kirkton, miniſters, Thomas Turnbull of Know, Eſq; ruling elder; From the preſbytery of Lauder, Dr Alexander Duncan at Smallholme, Mr Alexander Duncan at Gordon, miniſters, Colonel James Pringle, younger of Stitchel, ruling elder; From the burgh of Lauder, the Earl of Lauderdale; From the preſbytery of Selkirk, Mr Robert Potts at Ettrick, Mr Robert Douglas at Galaſhiels, miniſters, Mr Adam Ogilvy advocate, ruling elder; From the Burgh of Selkirk, Mr George Currie, advocate; From the Preſbytery of Annan, Mr Andrew Jaffrey at Ruthwell, Mr John Craig at Kirkpatrick-Fleming, miniſters, Sir William Maxwell of Springkell, ruling elder; From the Preſbytery of Langholm, Mr John Scotland at Weſterkirk, Mr John Ruſſel at Eſkdalemuir, miniſters, Mr William Scotland, writer, ruling elder; From the Preſbytery of Lochmaben, Mr John Nimmo at Johnſton, Mr William Scott at Kirkpatrick, *juxta*, Dr John Burges at Kirkmichael, miniſters, Mr William Hay of Crawfordtown, ruling elder; From the burgh of Lochmaben, Alexander Ferguſon of Craigdarroch, Eſq; From the burgh of Sanquhar, Alexander Wight Eſq; advocate; From the Preſbytery of Dumfries Mr Thomas Mutter at Dumfries, Mr James Muirhead at Urr, Mr James Little at Colvend, miniſters, Mr John Martin portioner of Glengaber, ruling elder; to be commiſſioners, of this General Aſſembly, to the effect after mentioned; with power to the ſaid commiſſioners, or their quorum, which is hereby declared to be any thirty-one of the ſaid commiſſioners, whereof twenty-one are always to be miniſters, to meet and convene within the Aſſembly-houſe at Edinburgh, the firſt day after the diſſolution of this Aſſembly, at ten of the clock in the forenoon; and thereafter, the ſecond Wedneſday of Auguſt, third Wedneſday of November and the firſt Wedneſday of March next to come, and oftener when and where they ſhall think fit and convenient, with power to the ſaid commiſſioners to chuſe their own Moderator: And likewiſe, the General Aſſembly fully impowers their ſaid commiſſioners, or their quorum above mentioned, to cognoſce and finally determine, as

they

they shall see cause, in every matter referred, or that shall be referred to them, by an act or order of this Assembly; and to do every thing contained in and conform to the instructions given, or to be given by this Assembly; and to advert to the interest of the Church on every occasion, that the Church, and present establishment thereof, do not suffer or sustain any prejudice which they can prevent, as they will be answerable: Provided always, that this general clause be not extended to particular affairs or processes before synods or presbyteries, that are not of universal concern to, or influence upon, the whole Church. And it is hereby appointed, that no private processes be determined, except at the four stated diets: and what shall be determined at one diet of the Commission with relation to private causes, shall be unalterable by any other diet thereof, and shall stand and continue in force, till disapproven by the General Assembly. And the Assembly renews the instructions given by the General Assembly in the year one thousand seven hundred and seventeen, to their Commission, and appoints the same to stand in full force, as instructions to the commissioners before named, and to be observed by them in all points, as if the same were specially here insert; and that they inquire into the publishing and spreading of books and pamphlets tending towards the promoting of opinions of whatever kind, inconsistent with our *Confession of Faith*; and that the recommenders of such books or pamphlets, or the errors therein contained, whether by word, writ, or print, be called before the said Commission to answer for the same. And further, the said Commission is hereby impowered to receive any references and appeals that shall be made to them from synods, in matters of doctrine, and ripen such affairs for the next General Assembly; and to contribute what they can to the suppressing of vice and immorality, and give all needful advice and assistance to synods and presbyteries, upon application to them for that end: Likewise to take care that the impressions of the *Holy Scriptures*, the *Confession of Faith* and *Catechisms*, and such books as are authorised by this Church, relating to the doctrine, worship, dis-

cipline, and government thereof, be correct; and give directions about printing the ſame. And the commiſſioners are appointed and impowered to keep a correſpondence with the committee for Reformation of the Highlands and Iſlands, for ſuppreſſing Popery and ſuperſtition, and for promoting the knowledge of true religion, and carrying on a reformation in theſe parts, and give aſſiſtance and concurrence therein; and, if need be, to apply to the Government for a proper remedy and ſpeedy redreſs. And the ſaid commiſſioners are hereby ſtrictly prohibited and diſcharged, to meddle in any other matters than what are committed and referred to them as above mentioned: And, in all their actings, they are to proceed according to the acts and conſtitution of this Church, and to do nothing contrary thereto, or to the prejudice of the ſame; declaring, that in and for all their actings, they ſhall be accountable to, and cenſureable by the next General Aſſembly, as they ſhall ſee cauſe. And the General Aſſembly appoints the ſaid commiſſioners, particularly to obſerve the acts of the General Aſſemblies One thouſand ſeven hundred and twelve, and One thouſand ſeven hundred and nineteen, reſpecting the application of the public money; which two acts are printed among the acts of Aſſembly One thouſand ſeven hundred and ſixty-one. And this Commiſſion is to continue and endure until another Commiſſion be appointed; and members are required to attend the diets of the ſaid Commiſſion; and abſents therefrom are ordered to be noticed, according to the 17th act of the General Aſſembly held in the year One thouſand ſeven hundred and ſix. And for the better ſecuring of a quorum, and attendance of members on the Commiſſion, the General Aſſembly prohibits the preſbytery of Edinburgh, or any other preſbytery within twelve miles thereof, to meet on any of the days or weeks appointed for the meeting of this Commiſſion; and ſuch of the members of theſe preſbyteries as are on the Commiſſion, are required all of them to give attendance on the diets thereof; and the preſbyteries at a greater diſtance, who have four or more members on the Commiſſion, are to take care, that at leaſt two of them

them attend each diet of the same: And the General Assembly appoint their Commission, at their first meeting, to discuss as many of the causes and questions relative to the settlements of vacant churches, which are or shall be referred to them by the Assembly, as they can overtake. And it is further provided, That when any presbytery or synod of this Church shall decline to comply with the sentence of the Commission, or to give the same a full execution, in that case the Commission is hereby prohibited to execute the same, by appointing any such correspondent meeting as has been sometimes the practice, but shall allow the same to lye over to the ensuing Assembly, to which such presbyteries or synods shall be answerable for such their conduct, and are hereby appointed to send up with their commissioners their reasons for the same. And the Assembly doth further impower and direct the said Commission, to make due application to the King and Parliament for redress of the grievance of patronage, in case a favourable opportunity for so doing shall occur during the subsistence of this Commission: And that in passing their sentences, and in ordering the execution of the same, they strictly observe the 12th act of the Assembly 1736.

VIII. Act

VIII.

Act disjoining the Pariſh of Nenthorn from the Preſbytery of Lauder, and annexing the ſame to the Preſbytery of Kelſo.

Edinburgh, 28th May 1776.

THE which day the General Aſſembly had tranſmitted to them by their committee for bills, a petition for Mr Abraham Kerr miniſter at Nenthorn, ſetting forth, That the removal of the preſbytery of Lauder from Earlſtone to Lauder, which is at a conſiderable diſtance from Nenthorn, made it extremely inconvenient for him (eſpecially in winter) to attend the meetings of the preſbytery of Lauder; and as Kelſo is much nearer, it would be more convenient for him and his pariſhioners that the pariſh of Nenthorn be disjoined from the preſbytery of Lauder, and united to the preſbytery of Kelſo: That both the preſbyteries and the ſynod of Merſe and Teviotdale had agreed thereto; and along with the petition he produced a letter addreſſed to the Moderator of this Aſſembly ſigned by all the heretors of the pariſh of Nenthorn agreeing to the disjunction, and craving that the General Aſſembly would disjoin the ſaid pariſh of Nenthorn from the preſbytery of Lauder and unite and annex the ſame to the Preſbytery of Kelſo. Which petition and letter being read and conſidered by the General Aſſembly, they unanimouſly did, and hereby do disjoin the Pariſh of Nenthorn from the preſbytery of Lauder, and unite and annex the ſame to the Preſbytery of Kelſo; and declare Mr Kerr, and his ſucceſſors in office, conſtituent members of the preſbytery of Kelſo in all time coming.

IX.

Act reponing Mr Robert Dalrymple to the office of the holy Miniſtry.

At Edinburgh, the 29th day of May 1776.

THE General Aſſembly taking into conſideration, a petition of Mr Robert Dalrymple, late miniſter at Dallas, preſented to the ſynod of Moray, and referred by them to this Aſſembly, craving, That he might be reſtored to the miniſterial character, of which he was deprived by a ſentence of this Church more than twelve years ago, in the juſtice of which he acquieſced; at the ſame time, that it had been unſpeakably diſtreſſing to him, had borne ſo hard upon his mind, and given him ſo deep concern, that nothing appeared to him of ſuch importance, and ſo comforting, as to be reſtored to his former character. And the Aſſembly having had laid before them, together with the above petition, a repreſentation from the ſynod of Moray, bearing, That they had unexceptionable evidence, both from the teſtimony of their own members, and from the places where Mr Dalrymple had reſided, of his decent and uſeful behaviour ſince he was depoſed, and were therefore unanimouſly of opinion, That it would be in no reſpect hurtful to the intereſts of religion, but otherwiſe, to agree to his petition: But that as the Aſſembly had affirmed the ſentence of the Synod depoſing him, they ſubmitted it to the Aſſembly, whether, upon what is above repreſented, it would not be proper to take off the ſaid ſentence.—The General Aſſembly, conſidering the above petition and repreſentation, *did* unanimouſly and hereby *do* take off the ſentence of depoſition, paſſed upon the ſaid Mr Robert Dalrymple, and repone him to the office of a miniſter of the goſpel.

X.

Act altering the day of Meeting of the Synod of Fife.

Edinburgh, 29th May 1776.

THE which day the General Aſſembly had tranſmitted to them from their committee for Overtures, an Overture from the Synod of Fife, craving, That the Aſſembly would alter the day of the Synod's meeting from the firſt to the ſecond Wedneſday of October: Which being read, and conſidered by the General Aſſembly, they unanimouſly *did*, and hereby *do* change the day of meeting of the Synod of Fife from the firſt to the ſecond Wedneſday of October yearly; and appoint the ſaid Synod to meet on the ſecond day of October next.

XI.

Act changing the place of Meeting of the Synod of Galloway.

Edinburgh, 3d June 1776.

THE which day the General Aſſembly had tranſmitted to them, by their committee for bills, a petition for the Synod of Galloway, craving, That the Aſſembly would be pleaſed to change the place of the Synod's meeting, from Wigton to Newtonſtewart; and along with the petition there was produced an extract of the Synod's proceedings relative to this matter. Which petition and extract

extract being considered by the General Assembly, they unanimously *did* and hereby *do* change the place of the Synod of Galloway's meeting from Wigton to Newton-stewart; and appointed the ordinary and stated meetings of that Synod to be held at Newtonstewart in all time coming, *allowing* the Synod to adjourn occasionally to Kirkcudbright, Wigton, Stranrawer, or else where.

XII.

Act anent the age of Ruling Elders.

At Edinburgh the 28th day of May 1776.

THE General Assembly, upon the report of their committee for overtures, finding that a considerable majority of the presbyteries of this church have now agreed to an overture anent the age of ruling elders, and the electing them to represent Sessions in Presbyteries and Synods; did thereupon agree, without a vote, to turn the said overture into a standing act: And accordingly the General Assembly *did*, and hereby *do* enact, 1*mo*, That no person shall be ordained an elder of this Church before he is twenty-one years of age complete. 2*do*, That all Presbytery Elders shall be elected within two months after the sitting of Synod, to attend the Presbytery and ensuing Synod of that bounds; and in case of death or demission, a new election shall be made within one month of the same. 3*tio*, That every elder so chosen shall produce an extract of his election under the hand of the Session-clerk, before he be received on the roll of either Preysbytery or Synod.

XIII. Act

XIII.

Act appointing the Diet of the next General Assembly.

THE next General Assembly of this National Church is appointed to be held in this place on Thursday the 22d day of May, in the year 1777.

Collected and extracted from the Records of the General Assembly, by

GEORGE WISHART, *Cls. Ecc. Scot.*

Overture anent Persons going to be Licensed and Ordained without the bounds of this Church.

Edinburgh, May 28th. 1776.

WHEREAS, it is a mater of the greatest importance to the interests of religion, to prevent persons not duly qualified from becoming preachers and ministers of the gospel; and as it has often been complained of, that persons, not qualified according to the acts of this Church, have retired out of its bounds, to places where they were not well known, and have obtained licence to preach, or been ordained ministers of the gospel: Therefore it is overtured to the General Assembly, to prohibit all persons, educated or residing within the bounds of this Church, from going out of its bounds to obtain licences to preach; and to prohibit all preachers licensed by this Church, from going without its bounds to obtain ordination, unless they are called to a particular congregation in another country; and to enact, That licences obtained in that manner shall not be received, or have any effect in this Church; and such preachers as contravene this act, shall forfeit the licence formerly given them, and be no longer entitled to the privileges which belong to a preacher of the gospel in this Church.

Overture anent licenſing Probationers.

Edinburgh, May 22d 1776.

TEH General Aſſembly taking into their ſerious conſideration the danger that ariſeth to this Church, and to the ſouls of people, by licenſing any to preach the goſpel, who are not duly qualified, according to the rules laid down in the Holy Scriptures; and conſidering, that the ſeveral acts made by former General Aſſemblies, ly ſo ſcatered in many ſeparate articles, at great diſtance from one another, that the directions therein given, are in danger of being overlooked by Preſbyteries: Therefore the General Aſſembly renew all former acts, and ſtrictly ordain them to be obſerved by Preſbyteries in all time-coming, in manner following, *viz.*

1*mo*, That no Preſbytery admit any perſon to probationary trials, but ſuch as are found to be of good report, of ſufficient learning, ſound principles, of a pious, ſober, grave, and prudent behaviour, and of a peaceable dipoſition, and well affected to the government in church and ſtate, and of whom they have ſufficient grounds to conceive, that they ſhall be uſeful and edifying in the church, and that careful enquiry be made thereanent; and that, without reſpect of perſons, ſuch as are eſteemed to be light and vain in their behaviour, imprudent, proud, worldly-minded, or unacquainted with the power of practical Godlineſs, be kept back from that ſacred work.

2*do*, That none be admitted to trials, in order to be licenſed, but ſuch as have attended the profeſſion of divinity for ſix years, or have cloſely followed the ſtudy of divinity, and of the languages for that ſpace, at leaſt, after they have paſſed their full courſe of philoſophy at the college, and made proficiency therein, in caſe their circumſtances did not allow them to attend the profeſſion, though it were to be deſired they ſhould attend the

profeſſion

profession of divinity, much of that time; and that the school degrees be enquired after.

3*tio*, The General Assembly considering the reproach that may be brought on religion in general, and particularly on this church, by the unworthy behaviour of such as follow the study of divinity, do earnestly recommend to the presbyteries, professors of divinity, and ministers and members of this church, to keep a watchful eye on such students, during the said six years. And further, That when any student comes to attend the profession of divinity in any university, he shall produce to the professor, and to the minister of the parish where he is to reside, during the time of his attendance on the profession, a testimonial from the minister from whence he comes; and, when he leaves the profession, he shall carry back testimonials from the minister of the parish, of his grave and suitable behaviour becoming his character, and from the professor, testifying the same; and also his regular attendance on the diets of the profession, and the time he has attended. And when any professor of divinity shall think fit to recommend a student, in order to probationary trials, his testimonials shall bear not only his proficiency in his studies, but his judgement of his moral and Christian character, and that, in his opinion, such an one may be useful and edifying in the work of the ministry.

4*to*, The General Assembly do appoint and ordain, That no presbytery admit any student to probationary trials, except such as have resided within their bounds for the space of six months, or do produce to them sufficient testimonials from the presbyteries in whose bounds they have lived, or, for the most part, resided, expressing, that it is the desire of these Presbyteries, that these students should be enered upon trials. And such students as come from abroad, shall produce satisfying testimonials from the professors under whom they studied, and the time of their being abroad shall be accounted a part of the six years but none of these students shall be entered upon trials for the space of half a year after they come to Scotland.

5*to*,

5to, When any ſtudent is propoſed to a Preſbytery, in order to be taken on trials, the propoſal ſhall ly on the table till the next ordinary meeting, before they give judgement therein, that diligent enquiry may be made, and information had concerning the ſaid ſtudent's qualifications and behaviour; and the preſbytery ſhall be alone both when the propoſal is made and judged on. And the General Aſſembly enjoins all ſtudents, to take all opportunities of cultivating an acquaintance with the miniſters of the preſbytery where they reſide, and where they are to paſs trials.

6to, When the Preſbytery, after ſerious enquiry and mature deliberation, ſhall agree to take the propoſed candidate on trials, before his entry thereto, the General Aſſembly appoints them, by themſelves, or a committee of their number, to take a private and previous trial of the progreſs he has made in the Latin, Greek, and Hebrew languages, in the ſtudy of philoſophy, and his knowledge in divinity, theoretical, Polemical and practical, eſpecially ſuch points as ſhall be matter of the preſent debates and controverſies; his acquaintance with the Holy Scriptures, and what impreſſion he has of religion on his own ſoul; his knowledge of the conſtitution of the primitive Chriſtian Church, and alſo of our own, and of the government and diſcipline thereof; and of his ſpiritual wiſdom to deal with the ſeveral ſorts of perſons he may have to do with, namely, atheiſts, deſpiſers of religion, careleſs and ſecure perſons, weak and tender conſciences, and others, wherein the great difficulty of the paſtoral charge lyes; and particularly anent his ends and intentions in entering upon the preaching of the goſpel; and that they appoint three or four of their number for managing the ſaid trials. And the General Aſſembly further appoint the ſeveral Preſbyteries concerned, to take ſpecial care that theſe trials be not managed in an overly and ſuperficial manner, but as in the ſight of God, and our Lord Jeſus Chriſt, the alone king and head of his church; and either to reject, or delay to further trial, ſuch as are found not ſufficiently qualified.

7*mo*, The General Assembly appoints the same method to be observed, and trials to be taken in all the above particulars, before any Presbytery recommend a student to pass trials in another Presbytery.

8*vo*, The General Assembly do also appoint and ordain, That the above space of six years being expired, and testimonials produced, and previous trials taken in manner above directed, the Presbytery, before they prescribe any part of public trials, shall write letters to all the Presbyteries within the bounds of the Synod, three months at least before the sitting of the Synod, acquainting them with their design; and at the said next meeting of the Synod, they shall also acquaint the Synod thereof, and obtain their special advice and judgment in that particular; and that the members of the said Presbytery and Synod may be ripely advised thereanent, the General Assembly appoints the said letters to be duly and carefully transmitted to the several Presbyteries, and that intimation thereof be publicly made at the second diet of the Synod, to lye on the table till another diet, and then particular enquiry be made, whether any person have any thing to object against the Students being entered on trials for preaching the gospel. Provided always, That in any part of this Church where Synods met but once a year, a student may be proposed to the Synod, five years and a half after he has left the study of philosophy in the University.

9*mo*, The General Assembly recommends to Presbyteries, before any student is entered on trials, the engagements required by act 10. Assembly 1711, of such as are to be licensed be read to them; and that the Presbytery take promise of them, that they will subscribe to, and punctually observe the same, in case the Presbytery see cause to licence them; and that this promise be recorded in their books.

10*mo*, The General Assembly appoints the public probationary trials of students, who are to be licensed probationers, to be these following, *viz.* 1*mo*, The catechetic trials to be renewed in presence of the Presbytery, and that previously to all the other parts of public trials. 2*do*, A homily in English on a Scripture text.

3*tio*,

3*tio*, An exegisis in Latin, on a controverted head of divinity, and sustaining a thesis and dispute thereon. 4*to*, An exercise and addition. 5*to*, A lecture on a large portion of Scripture. 6*to*, A popular sermon on a particular text of Scripture. 7*mo*, A trial on chronology and Church history, especial the history of our own Church. *Lastly*, To interpret the Greek of the New Testament *ad aperturam libri*; and not only to translate and analize any portion of the Hebrew Bible prescribed by the Presbytery, but also to read the Hebrew text *ad aperturam libri*.

11*mo*, The General Assembly judging it fit, that the same method should be followed in all Presbyteries, as to questions put to, and engagements taken of probationers when licenced; and that the said probationers should not only give sufficient proof of their piety, literature, and other good qualifications for the sacred Ministry, but also come under the strictest engagements to adhere to, and maintain the doctrine, worship, discipline, and government of this Church, Do therefore enact and appoint that the questions appointed by act 10, 1711, be put to all such as pass trials; and likewise that they shall subscribe the *Formula* set down in the said act before they be licensed to preach the gospel. And the General Assembly strictly prohibits the licensing any person whatsomever, who shall not give explicit and satisfying answers to these questions, and subscribe the said *Formula*, and discharge any Presbytery to make use of any other questions or *Formula*.

12*mo*, When any Presbytery, who, with the Synod's allowance, has entered, or who is about to enter a student on trials, shall receive a letter from any Presbytery, shewing their dissatisfaction with the student entered or to be entered on trials, and giving relevant grounds for the same, which they offer to verify to the presbytery at their next meeting, the said student shall not be licensed until the matter be tried. And the General Assembly appoints Presbyteries, who shall receive such letters anent students, from any other Presbytery, to write a return with the first post after their meeting, acquainting them of their next diet.

13*mo*, The General Assembly, considering that some persons who, upon application to the judicatories of this Church, have not been admitted on trials, or have not been found fit and worthy to be licensed to preach, do yet retire out of the bounds of this Church, where they are not so well known, in order to enter upon trials, and, after they have been licensed, do not recommend themselves by a holy life and ministerial conversation, to the reproach of the Church of Scotland where they were educated: Therefore the General Assembly do hereby inhibit and discharge all young men, educated in this Church, or students of divinity, to go to foreign places, and offer themselves to trials for licence to preach the gospel, without testimonials and recommendations from their Presbytery, as above directed. And further order and appoint, That no student whatsomever, coming from abroad, shall be allowed to preach within this Church, as one of our probationers, until it appear documented, that they have followed the study of divinity for six years, after their finishing their course of philosophy, and until they undergo a-new their catechetic trials, and come under the engagements, and sign the *Formula* appointed by act 10. assembly 1711, and it appear by their licence, that the said probationers have been licensed by a regular constitute Presbytery, or classical meeting.

14*mo*, For the better observation of this act, it is particularly recommended to the professors of divinity, to communicate the contents thereof to their students, in a public meeting annually, at such time in the month of January as to them seem most convenient. And all Presbyteries and synods are peremptorily appointed to observe the same in all its parts: And 'tis strictly enjoined, that the visitors of Presbytery-books make strict enquiry how the several Presbyteries do observe the same.

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OF THE

ACTINGS and PROCEEDINGS of the General Aſſembly of the Church of Scotland, held in the Year 1776, which are not printed at full Length.

May 23. 1776. *Seſſ.* 1*ſt.*

AFTER ſermon by the Rev. Dr David Shaw miniſter at Coylton, Moderator of the laſt General Aſſembly, the Miniſters and Ruling Elders convened in the Aſſembly-houſe, and after prayer by the ſaid Dr David Shaw, Dr John Ker miniſter at Forfar was choſen Moderator, and, at the Aſſembly's deſire, took the chair.

The General Aſſembly being thus conſtituted, there was given in to them by Mr David Dalrymple advocate, Procurator for the Church, a meſſage in writing, from the Right Hon. Charles Lord Cathcart, his Majeſty's High Commiſſioner, to this General Aſſembly, which was openly read, with all due honour and reſpect, and ordered to be recorded in the books of Aſſembly.

The King's Commiſſion to the Right Hon. Charles Lord Cathcart, to repreſent his Majeſty's royal perſon, was likewiſe given in by Mr Dalrymple, read, with all due honour and reſpect, and ordered to be recorded.

The King's moſt gracious letter to this Aſſembly, was alſo given in by Mr Dalrymple, read in the moſt reſpectful manner, and ordered to be recorded.

His Majeſty's royal warrant for L. 1000 Sterling, was alſo delivered in to the Aſſembly by Mr Dalrymple, read, and ordered to be recorded.

A committee named to wait upon his Grace the Commiſſioner, and expreſs to him, in the Aſſembly's name, the ſenſe they had of his Majeſty's favourable regard to this Church, in the repeated aſſurances given by him of his royal protection, in countenancing the Aſſembly's with his approbation and royal authority, in graciouſly continuing his royal bounty for the valuable purpoſes expreſſed in the grant, and in again appointing one ſo acceptable to this Church to repreſent his royal perſon in the Aſſembly.

A committee named for anſwering the King's moſt gracious letter.

A committee named for reviſing the commiſſions to the members of this Aſſembly, cenſuring abſents from the diets thereof; naming miniſters to preach before his Grace the King's Commiſſioner; receiving in liſts of the probationers in the ſeveral preſbyteries, in order to their being recorded.

Committee for overtures named.

Committee for bills, references, and appeals, named.

Adjournment.

May 24. 1776. *Seſſ.* 2*d.*

Sederunt.

New commiſſions produced.

A diet ſpent in prayer.

Act VII. of Aſſembly 1718, for the better diſpatch of the buſineſs of this Aſſembly, read, and the obſervation thereof enjoined.

Miniſters named to preach before his Grace the King's Commiſſioner.

The committees for overtures and bills appointed to meet this evening at their uſual places.

Adjournment.

May 25. 1776. *Seſſ.* 3*d.*

Sederunt.

New commiſſions produced.

The draught of an anſwer to the King's moſt gracious letter to this Aſſembly brought in and approven; and the

the Moderator desired to present the same to his Grace the Lord Commissioner, and to request of him to transmit the same to his Majesty.

The roll of causes transmitted by the committee for bills called for, produced, and read over.

The report of the committee for overtures called for, produced, and read over.

The report of the committee for revising commissions having passed the committee for overtures, the same was called for, and read.

The objection made to the commission from the presbytery of Aberdeen, respecting Mr Thomas Tait, and the substitution of Dr Campbell in his place, allowed to lye over till it should be seen, whether or not Mr Tait or Dr Campbell appeared at the Assembly; and till then, ordered that none of them should stand upon the roll.

The objection made to the commission from the presbytery of Mull repelled, and the commission sustained, in respect of the clause in the forms of commissions, relative to the time of electing members from presbyteries in the northern and western isles.

The objection made to the commission from the burgh of Selkirk repelled, and the commission sustaine d.

The objection made to the commission from the burgh of Irvine, delayed until the member chosen to represent that burgh should be present.

The objection made to the commission from the burgh of Wick delayed, in regard the necessary papers, to enable the Assembly to determine this objection, had not yet been transmitted by the committee for bills.

The objection made to the commission from the burgh of Dunfermline repelled, and the commission sustained.

The objection made to the commission from the burgh of Queensferry repelled, and the commission sustained.

A committee named to revise the actings and proceedings of the commission of the late General Assembly.

A committee named to audite the procurator and agent's accompts, consider the state of the public money, and prepare overtures about the same.

A committe named to reviſe the actings and proceedings of the committee named by laſt Aſſembly, for managing the Royal Bounty, for the reformation of the Highlands and Iſlands.

The committee for bills, appointed to meet this evening at ſix o'clock in the uſual place.

Adjournment.

May 27. 1776. *Seſſ.* 4*th.*

Sederunt.

New commiſſions produced.

His Grace the Lord High Commiſſioner appeared this day in the houſe, and made a moſt gracious ſpeech to the Aſſembly. And the Moderator at the Aſſembly's deſire, gave the thanks of the houſe to his Grace, and expreſſed the high ſatisfaction they felt at ſeeing his Grace in his own place among them.

Upon a motion the Aſſembly appointed a committee to draw up an addreſs to his Majeſty on the preſent ſituation of affairs.

The objection made to the commiſſion from the burgh of Irvine, repelled without a vote, and the commiſſion ſuſtained.

The objection made to the commiſſion from the burgh of Wick, heard, the objection repelled, and the commiſſion ſuſtained.

The committee for overtures impowered to receive in from the ſeveral members, any inſtructions given to them by the reſpective ſynods or preſbyteries, claſs the matters therein contained, and prepare overtures thereupon to the Aſſembly; and to receive in and conſider any accounts that ſhall be given them of the ſtate of the church in the North Highlands, particularly concerning the growth of popery and ſuperſtition, and prepare overtures for preventing and ſuppreſſing thereof.

The Synod books called for.

A committee named to reviſe the Synod book of Roſs.

The Synod books of Galloway, Glaſgow and Ayr Argyle, Perth and Stirling, Fife, Angus and Mearns, Aberdeen

Aberdeen, Moray, Glenelg, Sutherland and Caithneſs, Orkney, Lothian and Tweedale, Merſe and Tiviotdale, Dumfries ; and the preſbytery book of Zetland, not being brought up to this Aſſembly, reſolved that the reaſons thereof be inquired into.

The committee on the public accompts appointed to meet to morrow morning in the Society hall, at ten o'clock.

The committee for bills appointed to meet this evening at ſeven o'clock in their uſual place.

Adjournment.

May 28. 1776. *Seſſ.* 5*th.*

Sederunt.

The draught of an addreſs to his Majeſty, on the preſent ſituation of affairs, brought in and unanimouſly approven ; and his Grace the Commiſſioner, at the Aſſembly's requeſt, undertakes to tranſmit the ſame to his Majeſty.

Upon a motion, the Aſſembly appointed a committee to draw up an addreſs of congratulation to his Majeſty on the late birth of a Princeſs.

The report of a committee appointed by laſt Aſſembly, to conſider the overture anent the Pſalmody given in and read ; the committee continued, and Mr James Brown, one of the miniſters of Edinburgh appointed conveener of the committee.

Mr Brown gave in a report anent the balance of the expences of repairing the aile, which was read ; the thanks of the houſe given to Mr Brown by the Moderator from the chair for his care and diligence in this matter, and Mr Brown was entirely diſcharged of his intromiſſions.

Upon a motion, Profeſſor Baillie, Profeſſor Richardſon, both of Glaſgow, Mr Burns miniſter of the Barony pariſh, and Mr Daniel Campbell merchant in Glaſgow, were added to the committee, for managing the fund for Iriſh Students at the College of Glaſgow, in the room of four members of ſaid committee who are dead.

The pariſh of Nenthorn disjoined from the preſbytery of Lauder, and annexed to the preſbytery of Kelſo ; *vide the printed acts.*

The report of the committee for bills called for, given in and read over.

Reſolve anent taking in cauſes.

The report of the committee for overtures called for, produced and read over.

The Overture anent the age of Ruling Elders paſt into a law; *vide the printed acts.*

The overture anent perſons going to be licenced or ordained without the bounds of this church, tranſmitted to Preſbyteries with ſpecial injunctions from the Aſſembly about ſending returns thereto; *vide the overture printed at the end of the acts.*

Reſolve anent taking in the report concerning the widows ſcheme.

A committee appointed to reviſe the ſynod-book of Merſe and Teviotdale.

The committee for overtures and bills appointed to meet to-morrow at eleven o'clock in their uſual places.

Adjournment.

May 29. 1776. *Seſſ.* 6*th.*

Sederunt.

The draught of a congratulory addreſs to his Majeſty on the birth of another Princeſs brought in and approven. The Moderator deſired to wait upon his Grace the Commiſſioner, and aſk the favour of his Grace to tranſmit the ſame to his Majeſty.

The report of the committee for bills called for, given in and read over.

The report of the committee for overtures called for, given in and read over.

Upon a motion, the General Aſſembly appointed the clerks to cauſe print copies of the act reſpecting the age of ruling elders, and tranſmit a copy thereof to each miniſter in Scotland, that he might cauſe inſert the ſame in the kirk-ſeſſion records.

Reſolve anent taking in cauſes.

A committee named to look over the acts of aſſembly reſpecting ſtudents of divinity, and the licenſing of probationers, in order to know what former aſſemblies

blies had already done, and to report a ſtate of it on Friday.

A committee named to conſider an overture from the ſynod of Roſs anent incloſing miniſters glebes.

The procurator, agent and ſtationers accompts produced, and ordered to ly on the table.

The day of meeting of the ſynod of Fife altered; *vide the printed acts.*

There was tranſmitted from the committee of overtures, two overtures, one from the ſynod of Aberdeen, and and the other from the ſynod of Angus and Mearns, relative to the widows fund; the aſſembly delayed the conſideration of theſe overtures, until they had conſidered the returns to the propoſals already tranſmitted.

Mr Robert Dalrymple, late miniſter at Dallas, reponed to the office of a miniſter of the goſpel; *vide the printed acts.*

The report of the truſtees for the widows fund produced and read over; and ordered to ly on the table for the peruſal of members, along with certain papers relative thereto.

The overtures from the ſynod of Aberdeen, and Angus and Mearns, with one from Doctor Blenſhall, taken under conſideration; the overtures were read, and Dr Webſter being in the houſe, was heard on the ſubject. The General Aſſembly unanimouſly agreed to reject theſe overtures.

The committee for overtures and bills appointed to meet to-morrow morning at ten o'clock in their uſual places.

Adjournment.

May 30. 1776. *Seſſ.* 7.

Sederunt.

New commiſſions produced.

The report of the committee for bills called for, produced and read over.

The petition for Mr Patrick Caldwell, miniſter of the perambulated bounds of Norriſton, relative to the Norriſton fund, *read*, and a committee appointed to conſider the fund of Norriſton, and to bring in a

ſtate

ſtate thereof to this aſſembly. And the members of the preſbytery of Dumblane were deſired to meet with this committee.

The Synod book of Angus and Mearns produced, and a committee named to reviſe the ſame.

An appeal of the donors for purchaſing and building the meeting houſe at Dunfermline occupied by the late Mr Gilleſpie, againſt a ſentence of the preſbytery of Dunfermline, delaying to proceed and give judgement on a petition at their inſtance, praying That they might be received into communion with the church of Scotland, *heard*, the appeal diſmiſſed; but on account of the preſent diſpoſition of the people, petitioners, the cauſe remitted back to the preſbytery of Dunfermline, with inſtructions to uſe their beſt endeavours to accommodate the petitioners if they ſhall again apply to them, ſo as to prevent their joining any body of ſectaries.

Adjournment.

May 31. 1776. *Seſſ.* 8*th.*

Sederunt.

The report of the committee appointed to conſider the petition of Mr Patrick Caldwell, given in, and read over. The Aſſembly unanimouſly authoriſed the preſbytery of Dumblane to pay to the ſaid Mr Patrick Caldwell the ſum of L. 20 Sterling money out of the funds of Norriſton, under their adminiſtration, to be applied by him in repairing the offices belonging to the manſe of Norriſton, with the dykes and hedges ſurrounding the garden and orchard; and further, That the ſaid Mr Patrick Caldwell, and his ſucceſſors in office, ſhould be entitled henceforth to poſſeſs the five acres and a half of ground as a glebe, (for which he preſently pays L. 8 : 2 : 6 Sterling yearly of rent) free of rent in all time coming.

The members of the ſeveral ſynods, appointed to meet at the riſing of this ſederunt in their uſual places, in order to name the nominators of the commiſſion, and to lodge their nomination with the clerks to-morrow morning in the Society-hall.

The

The committee for reviſing the Royal bounty record; deſired to give in their report to-morrow, together with the nomination of the perſons to be upon the next committee.

The report of the committee appointed to conſider the overture from the ſynod of Roſs, anent the incloſing of miniſters glebes, given in and read; and a new committee appointed, to conſider this affair, and ripen the ſame for the next Aſſembly.

The repreſentation of the truſtees of the fund for miniſters widows, *&c.* which was laid before the Aſſembly on Wedneſday, reſpecting certain alterations propoſed to be made on the ſcheme, contained in the ſix articles which were tranſmitted by the late General Aſſembly to preſbyteries and univerſities, and in ſix other articles tranſmitted by the truſtees and committee of the ſaid Aſſembly, purſuant to the directions of that Aſſembly, read over, together with the returns from preſbyteries relative thereto. The Aſſembly entered upon the conſideration of the ſix articles tranſmitted by the truſtees; which articles being read over, it was moved and agreed to, that the firſt and ſecond being already enacted there was no neceſſity for introducing them into the propoſed new ſtatute. The third and fourth were agreed to as reaſonable and proper. With reſpect to the fifth, the Aſſembly were of opinion, That what relates to the election of truſtees from preſbyteries and univerſities, ſhould remain on the ſame footing as at preſent; and therefore diſmiſſed the ſaid article. The ſixth, reducing the penalty of non-attendance was agreed to: The Aſſembly thereafter cauſed read over the ſix articles tranſmitted by the late Aſſembly; and after long reaſoning thereupon, the members of Aſſembly ſeemed divided with reſpect to what is contained in the fourth article: Some ſaw no reaſon for altering the manner in which the method of electing the collector is expreſſed in the preſent ſtatute; others were of opinion, that it ſhould be expreſſed as in this article: Others inſiſted, That in caſe of the Aſſembly's diſapproving of the election made by the truſtees, or in caſe of a vacancy happening by any

other cauſe during the ſitting of Aſſembly, it ſhould be competent for that Aſſembly to elect a new collector without remitting it to the truſtees. The Aſſembly, after mature deliberation, agreed to tranſmit the foreſaid ſix articles to preſbyteries and univerſities, for the conſideration of contributers within their reſpective bounds; and ordered a letter to be wrote by the clerk of Aſſembly to the Moderator of each preſbytery, and to the Principal of each univerſity, requiring them, at the firſt meeting of preſbytery or univerſity, after receiving this letter, to ſignify to the contributors within their reſpective bounds, that they are appointed without delay to take the foreſaid articles under conſideration, and report their opinion thereupon to the truſtees on or before the ſecond Tueſday of October next, diſtinguiſhing in their report the numbers of contributors approving or diſapproving of each article: That if any preſbytery ſtands adjourned to a late day, the Moderator is ordered to call a meeting *pro re nata*, ſo as the opinion of contributors in that preſbytery may be reported to the truſtees by the time above mentioned: That the truſtees ſhall lay before the Commiſſion at their meeting in November, the returns they ſhall have then received from preſbyteries and univerſities. Which commiſſion are hereby impowered to apply to Parliament for a new ſtatute for ſuch variations to be made upon the preſent ſtatutes, as were agreed to by the laſt General Aſſembly, in conſequence of the approbation of contributors, and ſuch other alterations reſpecting the foreſaid ſix articles now tranſmitted, as ſhall appear reaſonable, and moſt agreeable to the ſenſe of contributors: That in caſe there ſhall be no meeting of the Commiſſion in November, the powers veſted in them are hereby veſted in the truſtees. And in order, the better to ſecure returns from contributors within the time limited, the Aſſembly recommended to the truſtees to write a letter to each contributor, informing him of this reſolution of the Aſſembly.

Reſolve anent taking in a cauſe.

The

The committee of overtures appointed to meet to-morrow at ten o'clock.

Adjournment.

June 1. 1776. *Seſſ.* 9*th.*

Sederunt.

The report of the viſitors of the commiſſion-book given in, and read, and the Commiſſion's conduct approven of: The Aſſembly's thanks given from the chair to the Moderator of the Commiſſion for their faithfulneſs and diligence in the affairs committed to them; and their book ordered to be atteſted.

The report of the committee for naming the members of the Commiſſion, and preparing inſtructions to them, given in and approven of.

The report of the viſitors of the royal bounty regiſter given in and read; the conduct of the managers approven of, and their book ordered to be atteſted.

A committeee named for managing the royal bounty this year, with a commiſſion and inſtructions to them.

The annual report of the Truſtees of the fund eſtabliſhed by act of Parliament, for a proviſion to miniſters widows, *&c.* given in and read, and the ſame was ordered to lye on the table till another diet.

The Synod-book of Roſs atteſted.

The Synod-book of Merſe and Teviotdale atteſted.

The Synod-book of Angus and Mearns atteſted.

The Aſſembly ordered all the ſynods, whoſe books had not been ſent up to this Aſſembly, to be ſent up to next Aſſembly, *viz.* Galloway, Glaſgow and Ayr, Argyle, Perth and Stirling, Aberdeen, Moray, Glenelg, Sutherland and Caithneſs, Orkney, Lothian and Tweedale, Dumfries, and the preſbytery-book of Zetland.

Act approving of the accompt of Mr David Dalrymple procurator for the Church, and exonering and diſcharging him and his cautioners of the ſum of L. 706 : 7 : 2 Sterling; and ordering that he debit himſelf in his next accompt for the ſum of L. 65 : 19 : $2\frac{2}{3}$ Sterling, being the balance in his hands.

Act

Act approving the accompt of James Edmonſtone agent for the Church; and appointing that he ſhould have credit in his next accompt for the ſum of L. 13 : 10 : 5 Sterling, being the balance due to him.

Act approving the accompt of William Miller ſtationer to the Church.

The report of the committee named to conſider the applications for ſhares of the public money, given in, and read; together with the Procurator's opinion thereon, and laying before the Aſſembly a ſtate of the public fund of the Church, and of the amount of the debt. The Aſſembly, upon conſidering the petition for Mr Robert Thomſon miniſter at Killean, ordered him payment of the balance of the ſum allowed him by a former Aſſembly, being L. 33 : 13 : 4 Sterling: And appointed the following perſons, creditors on the public fund, for the ſums after mentioned, to become due to them after the debts already contracted on the funds are cleared, *viz.*

Mr Daniel Hyndman miniſter at South Knapdale, for the ſum of L. 15 Sterling.

Mr Donald M'Nicol miniſter at Leſsmore and Appin, for the ſum of L. 20 Sterling.

The report of the committee appointed by former Aſſemblies, to conſider the overture anent the increaſe of Popery, called for; but no report being ready, the Aſſembly continued the ſaid committee with the powers formerly given to them.

It being repreſented to the Aſſembly, That many preſbyteries in Scotland had neglected to make the collection for the ſupport of the charity-ſchools, ordered by the two preceding Aſſemblies; the General Aſſembly recommended it to the Society for propagating Chriſtian Knowledge, to ſend a new copy of the act of Aſſembly, appointing this collection to be made, together with a liſt of thoſe that are deficient in making the collection to the Moderator of each preſbytery: And the Aſſembly renews the appointment upon deficient preſbyteries, to make this collection betwixt and next Aſſembly.

The report of the committee appointed to conſider the overture reſpecting ſtudents in divinity, and the licenſing

cenſing of probationers given in and read: The General Aſſembly agreed thereto, ſo far as to tranſmit the overture of aſſembly 1749, ſimpliciter; ſtrictly enjoining preſbyteries to attend to a matter of ſuch importance, and to ſend up their opinions thereupon to the next General Aſſembly.

Two petitions and complaints tranſmitted by the committee for bills to this Aſſembly, one at the inſtance of Mr John Spence miniſter at Orwall, and the other at the inſtance of Mr Alexander Daling miniſter at Cliesh, againſt the preſbytery of Dunfermline, for refuſing to take under conſideration at their privy cenſures, a ſermon preached ſometime ago in the kirk of Dunfermline by Mr James Thomſon miniſter at Dunfermline. Heard, and both complaints diſmiſſed.

Adjournment.

June 3. 1776. *Seſſ. ult.*

Sederunt.

The report of the truſtees for managing the fund for a proviſion to miniſters widows, *&c.* containing a ſtate of the fund under their management, and an account of their proceedings ſince laſt Aſſembly again called for, and ordered to be recorded in the ſeparate regiſter kept for that purpoſe.

The committee on the window-tax continued with the ſame powers as appointed by former Aſſemblies.

The committee on the Enzie-fund continued with the ſame powers as appointed by former Aſſemblies.

Liſt of probationers produced, and ordered to be recorded.

The place of meeting of the ſynod of Galloway changed from Wigton to Newton-Stewart; *vide the printed acts.*

The Beadles ſalaries augmented to forty ſhillings ſterling each; and the caſhier authoriſed to pay them that ſum yearly in time coming.

All cauſes brought before this Aſſembly, and not determined by them, referred to the Commiſſion, with powers to them to judge, and finally determine therein.

No proteſtations given in this year, as to cauſes appealed to this Aſſembly, and not proſecuted.

A committee named to reviſe the minutes of the Aſſembly's proceedings at this and all the other meetings thereof, and to pitch upon ſuch of the acts of Aſſembly as are to be ſtanding rules, in order to their being printed.

The minutes of this day's ſederunt were read, the minutes of former ſederunts being read at the diets ſubſequent thereto.

The Moderator's ſpeech to the General Aſſembly, and his Majeſty's Commiſſioner.

The Lord Commiſſioner's ſpeech to the Aſſembly.

Act appointing next diet of Aſſembly.

The Aſſembly concluded with prayer, and ſinging of pſalms.

FINIS.